

مؤتمر عجمان
الدولي الخامس للبيئة
Ajman 5th International
Environment Conference



TRAGEDY ASSOCIATED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS – AN
APPLICATION OF THE SKINNERIAN BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION
STRATEGIES IN TEACHER TRAINING

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WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS^x



- the atmosphere
- oceans, rivers,
- fish stocks,
- national parks,
- advertising,
- grazing land, and
- road networks etc

WHAT ARE THE TRAGEDIES OF THE COMMONS

- the atmosphere - Pollution
- oceans, rivers - contaminated
- fish stocks – overfished
- national parks - abused
- Advertising - defaced
- grazing land - overgrazed
- road networks – littered and disrespected etc



WHAT IS THE CONCERN OF TEACHER EDUCATION ABOUT THE TRAGEDIES OF THE COMMONS

- There is need to appreciate the value of the environment
 - intrinsic value
 - instrumental value
 - existence value
 - aesthetic value
 - the bequest value
- There is need for development of pro-environmental attitude and behaviour

What are approaches to cultivation of pro-environmental attitude and behaviour

- Behaviour Modification Strategy Propounded by B.F. Skinner in the 1950s as an example
- based on the values of operant conditioning
 - whereby the undesirable behaviour are exchanged with more suitable ones
 - ✓ has been successfully used to treat anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), enuresis (bed-wetting), among others.
 - ✓ posits that behaviour can be weak, excess or a deficit, hence relevant efforts could be made to increase, decrease or manage the behaviour.
 - ✓ It encourages the use of reinforcements and punishment

Behaviour Modification Strategy

- ✓ seeking to make people to grow up and take responsibility for the environment, rather than wait on the government
- ✓ making people to think through and gain insight into solution to problems
- ✓ making people to understand the 'how' of what goes on 'now'.
- ✓ enhancing awareness
- ✓ personalising pronoun
- ✓ changing questions to statements
- ✓ assuming responsibility
- ✓ asking what and not why questions
- ✓ sharing hunches
- ✓ bringing the past into the now
- ✓ Expressing resentments and appreciation



Behaviour Modification Strategy in Environmental Education Classroom

- Assisting learners to
 - grow up and take responsibility for the environment, rather than wait on the government
 - think through and gain insight into solution to environmental problems
 - understand the 'how' of what goes on 'now' in their environment.
 - ✓ enhance awareness of the commons and their tragedies
 - ✓ personalise pronoun, so a to take environmental responsibilities
 - ✓ change questions to statements to assist mastery of environmental concepts and generalisations
 - ✓ ask what and not why questions about the commons and their tragedies
 - ✓ share hunches to develop pro-environment behaviour
 - ✓ bring the past into the now to reflect from the experiences of the past
 - ✓ express resentments and appreciate the need to preserve and protect the commons

What are the concerns for teacher education about the tragedies of the commons?

- ❑ Training teachers who will teach a multitude of young learners
- ❑ For preservice teachers to master how to use the tragedy of the commons as an anecdote towards understanding of the rudiments of sustainable environmental management
- ❑ understanding how to apply the principles of behaviour modification towards assisting the young learners to appreciate the value of sustainable environmental management via the issues associated with environmental commons

conclusion

- It is hoped that
 - when preservice teachers understand the basic issues associated with the tragedy of commons and
 - how to apply the tenets of the behaviour modification strategies,
 - they would be able to teach the multitude of young learners
 - who will in turn become responsible sustainable environmental managers.



THANK YOU

FOR LISTENING

